

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 5, 1924

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., on February 5, 1924, in the American Museum of Natural History, President Harry B. Weiss in the chair and 13 members and two visitors present.

Mr. Nicolay spoke on "Winter Sifting for Coleoptera" and exhibited a box of his captures by this method of collecting. He commended sifting for the occupation it afforded outdoors when other methods were unseasonable as well as for the species it yielded and emphasized its uselessness in recently burned areas. On Long Island he had found good places to sift at Rosedale and Wyandanch; in New Jersey at Lakehurst and Roselle Park; and some good species had been found on Staten Island. The prizes for him had been *Pselaphidæ*, especially *Brachygluta terebrata* from Roselle, *luniger* and *cavicornis* from Staten Island; *Bythinopsis tychoides* and *Pselaphus erichsoni* from Roselle, where a sphagnum bog was rich in such species.

Mr. Leng recalled that the same sphagnum bog at Roselle was the place where Mr. Barber and others had found *Boreaphilus americanus* Notman.

Mr. Davis described how Wyandanch had originally been selected as a collecting place from study of maps and how the little pond Mr. Nicolay visited had been originally detected by the frog songs issuing therefrom.

Mr. Notman spoke on "Western Coleoptera captured in 1923," referring particularly to his visits to Fargo and Minot, North Dakota, in the drainage basin of rivers running to Hudson's Bay, and Williston, North Dakota, and Great Falls, Montana, on rivers tributary to the Missouri. He tabulated over 1,200 specimens of *Bembidion*, representing 31 species, showing thereby a sharp difference between the two basins. Among other species of interest that he found along the river banks were *Dyschirius setosus* under leaves in dry runs and *Heterocerus* sp., in very sticky mud. About ten days were devoted to intensive collecting in the localities described.

Dr. Bequaert expressed admiration for the industry displayed by Messrs. Notman and Nicolay in collecting, mounting and studying such quantities of small and obscure beetles, and remarked that the New York Society was somewhat unique in the number of specimens shown at its meetings. He spoke also of the New York State List and advocated the printing separately of each order as MSS. was made ready.

Dr. Garman spoke of the ravages of the introduced *Anomala orientalis* in Connecticut, especially in destroying lawns, 100 larvæ having been found in one square yard. Fortunately thus far no serious damage had been done by adults. He spoke also of the possibility of a work on Connecticut Odonata being prepared.

Dr. Rohwer spoke of the continually increasing demand for entomological service at Washington, especially in detecting the accidental introduction of phytophagous insects.

Mr. Davis exhibited a *Polistes pallipes* found by Mr. Brower, of Willard, Missouri, eating a dying *Cicada hieroglyphica* on July 4, 1923, and commented on this unusual behavior of *Polistes*. He also exhibited a copy of American Forestry and Forest Life, containing an article by Mr. Weiss on scouting for Gypsy Moth in New Jersey.

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 1924

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M. on February 19, 1924, in the American Museum of Natural History, President Harry B. Weiss in the chair and 14 members and three visitors present.

Frank Johnston, 60 Douglas Road, Glen Ridge, N. J., and Perry A. Glick, 305 Custom House, New York City, were, on nomination by Messrs. Watson and Weiss, respectively, elected active members, the by-laws being suspended for the purpose.

Mr. Shoemaker exhibited six boxes of *Morpho* butterflies, describing the characteristics and origin of each. He said in part that his collections contained more than half of the described species and quoted from Bates, "It is a grand sight to see these colossal butterflies by twos and threes floating at a great height in the still air of a tropical morning," and expressed his great regret that he had never seen them alive.

Mr. Hallinan said that he had taken several hundred at Panama, but only three species, usually shortly after sunrise or after rain. The females were rare because they remained in the deep jungle. He discussed various methods used in taking them and spoke of the superstitious objections to their capture encountered in Peru.

Mr. Davis exhibited Cicadas and other insects killed by wasps and robber flies and read from a paper on the subject, which will be printed in full. He also exhibited *Neonympha phocion* (*areolata* Sm. & Abb.) and its varieties and spoke of its nomenclature and geographic variation. His remarks will be printed.

Mr. Weiss exhibited copies of the Scientific Alliance Bulletin of 1906, which had been saved by Mr. Dickerson, and copy of the "American Mercury," containing an article by H. M. Parshley on Heredity, with a criticism thereof from the "New Republic."

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MARCH 4, 1924

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M. on March 4, 1924, in the American Museum of Natural History, President Harry B. Weiss in the chair, with 15 members and three visitors present.

Mr. Nicolay for Field Committee reported a trip for following Sunday open to all who desired to go out.

Mr. Davis called attention to the retirement of Mr. John D. Evans, Trenton, Ont., now 81 years old.

Mr. Lutz, in the absence on account of illness of the announced speakers, read extracts from his forthcoming paper in reference to some apparently selective characters and the facts brought out by his studies of ultra-violet rays.

ENTOMOLOGY IN THE DIARY OF SAMUEL PEPYS

In "Passages From the Diary of Samuel Pepys," a volume of The Modern Library published by Boni and Liveright, New York, one finds the following references to insects:

1664, July 18. "To Westminster to my barber's, to have my Periwigg he lately made me cleansed of its nits, which vexed me cruelly that he should put such a thing into my hands."

1664, September 3. "I have had a bad night's rest to-night, not sleeping well, as my wife observed, and once or twice she did wake me, and I thought myself to be mightily bit with fleas, and in the morning she chid her mayds for not looking the fleas a-days. But, when I rose, I found that it is only the change of the weather from hot to cold, which, as I was two winters ago, do stop my pores, and so my blood tingles and itches all day all over my body, and so continued to-day all the day long just as I was then."

1669, January 23. "So to my wife's chamber, and there supped, and got her cut my hair and look my shirt, for I have itched mightily these 6 or 7 days, and when all comes to all she finds that I am lousy, having found in my head and body about twenty lice, little and great, which I wonder at, being more than I have had I believe these 20 years. I did think I might have got them from the little boy but they did presently look him, and found none. So how they come I know not, but presently did shift myself, and so shall be rid of them, and cut my hair close to my head, and so with much content to bed."

Ed.